





On my back
there are
these marks.

Scars which will
not disappear
as long as I live.

3/3
Memories*

When I was four years old, my new father arrived. My step-father was a really nice person.

My real father died shortly after I was born. It seems that he was a really nice person.



My step-father stopped working.

Even so, thanks to my mother's income our lifestyle didn't suffer.

My step-father had failed at his job and gone deeply into debt.

He started
doing horrible
things to me.

My step-father
broke down.



Because
that was
something
I definitely
could not
allow.

I was simply
terrified.



I was
desperate
to stop
anybody
from
finding
out.



But it seems that not even that was enough to please my step-father.



That day



My back was burned.



Every day I
looked up
at the night
sky, but not
once did I see
what I was
looking for.

Somebody
once told me
that if you
wish upon a
shooting star,
then that wish
will come true.



I WANT TO
BE HAPPY.

I only
wanted
to be
happy.

I wished
for a world
without pain
or suffering.

Everything in
that world
was filled
with agony.

Back then
I only existed
inside of a
tiny world.



And then I learned that the world held
a darkness much greater than I had imagined.



twitch



SHASH



Ah...



going
to
die?

Am I

I still want to
experience
more happiness,
more laughter,
more....

Wouldn't
that just be
the same as
this world
with nothing
but agony?

But wouldn't that
also be a world
without happiness,
without laughter,
without
anything at all?

If I die, wouldn't
the pain and
the suffering
finally
disappear?



run
away



Mom,



I understood
right away
that I was in a
hospital.

And then,
the first person
who visited me
was not my
mother.





I COULDN'T
PROTECT
HER.



I couldn't
believe that
this adult
could just
calmly say
something
like that.



THANK
GOODNESS
SHE WENT
WITHOUT
SUFFERING.

It seems
that for
both of
them,
it was
pretty
much an
instant
death.

In order to
protect me,
my mother
fought
with my
step-father
and was
stabbed.

While trying
to escape,
my step-
father
died in a
traffic
accident.



After I entered the foster home I was forever the "good girl".



Or rather, I acted like a "good girl".

I started going out into the adult world.

Constantly lying proved much more tiresome than I'd thought.



Before I knew it I had stopped even wishing for anything.

As a child who knew nothing about drinking, I went way over my limit.





Back then I had already realised that men won't do.



That memory would not disappear as long I lived.



Leaving me
an empty
existence.
Without
even wishes.
Without
even light.

Because I
had already
died back
then.

I probably
couldn't hope
for ordinary
happiness
anymore.

AND I CAN'T
EVEN MAKE
OUT THE
STARS.

Mom...?

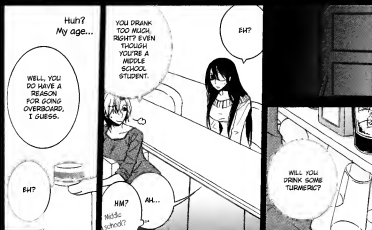
I can't
hear
you,
Mom...

Eh?
What...?



The writing on that page resembled my mother's.







I WAS A
LITTLE BIT
WORRIED.

LOOK, I
NORMALLY
AVOID
STICKING MY
HEAD
TOO DEEPLY
INTO OTHER
PEOPLE'S
BUSINESS,
BUT

IF IT'S IN A
PLACE LIKE
THAT, THEN
YOU CAN'T
HAVE DONE IT
YOURSELF...

WAS IT A
GUY...?
IF THAT'S
THE CASE,
BREAK UP
WITH HIM.



I DON'T
HAVE
ANYBODY
LIKE
THAT!

clench

YEAH, I
CAN TELL.
THE SCAR IS
OBVIOUSLY
PRETTY OLD
BY NOW.

ON YOUR
BACK -
THAT'S
FROM A
CIGARETTE,
RIGHT?





WAS IT
ABUSE?



...LOOKS
LIKE IT,
HUH.





From that day onward I came to idolise Yukari.





WELL, THEN
I GUESS
IT'S FINE.

Since I
wanted to
be known
as a good
boy.

WELL, I'M
MORE OR
LESS AT
THE TOP
OF MY
CLASS.

WHAT IS?

chew
chew



HUH?

SURE,
ARE YOU
SMART?

SOUNDS



BUT AT MY
ALMA MATER
THEY'LL WAIVE
TUITION AND
OTHER FEES
IF YOU MEET
THE RIGHT
CRITERIA.
THAT'S WHAT
I DID.

LOOK, THERE
ARE HIGH
SCHOOLS
YOU CAN GO
TO WHILE
WORKING.



YOU'RE
GOING TO
HIGH
SCHOOL.

HUH? ARE
YOU EVEN
LISTENING
TO WHAT
I'M SAYING!?



FOR
EXAMPLE...
A WAY FOR
YOU TO BE
HAPPY.

THERE ARE
STILL LOTS
OF THINGS
YOU NEED
TO LEARN
ABOUT.



BUT I JUST
WANT TO
GROW UP
AND STOP
DEPENDING
ON OTHERS...

YOU LET
SOCIETY WORRY
ABOUT THAT
AND JUST DO
WHAT'S BEST
FOR YOU.
BECAUSE EVEN
GROWN-UPS
HAVE TO
DEPEND ON
OTHERS.



AND THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHY...
YOU SEE?



I... I
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND!



IF YOU LEAVE
THEN YOU CAN
JUST COME
LIVE HERE.
RIGHT?

I ALREADY TOLD
YOU THAT AFTER
GRADUATING
FROM MIDDLE
SCHOOL I'M
LEAVING
HOSHINO-KO...

But!

didn't
even
need
to think
about it.



IT'S
DECIDED,
THEN.

Good

I'LL
TRY MY
BEST...

At the
time I,
who had
already
begun
to be
attracted
to Yukari,



BUT THAT'S
ONLY IF YOU
PASS, OKAY?

Condition
for living
here

EH...?

Does that
mean we'd
be "living
together"...?
(Inner voice)

!



I didn't need anybody else.
I thought I would be fine as long as Yukari let me stay by her side.

By then
I was already entranced by Yukari.



Because that was the easiest option.

And after that, I created an obvious barrier between me and the others.

Neither their scorn nor their pity could cause me any pain.

While that was inconvenient for my "good girl" image, I wasn't too bothered.

After entering high school, a single moment of carelessness led to the scars on my back being seen.



And thanks to her, I didn't have to put on that act any more.



A certain classmate quickly saw right through my act.

SO YOU KNOW, MEN WON'T DO FOR ME.







IN YOUR CASE,
WOULDN'T IT
BE STRANGER,
UNNATURAL
EVEN,
TO FORCE
YOURSELF TO
GO OUT WITH
A MAN?

ISN'T THAT
JUST WHAT'S
NATURAL FOR
YOU, NONAKA?

SO THERE'S
NOTHING
STRANGE
ABOUT WHAT
YOU SAID.



BECAUSE I
WON'T ALLOW
YOU TO STOP
TRYING TO FIND
YOUR OWN
HAPPINESS,
NONAKA.

THERE'S NO
WAY I WOULD
ACCEPT IT IF
YOU COULDN'T
BE HAPPY FOR
A REASON
LIKE THAT.



Had I now
become
afraid of
obtaining
happiness
for myself...?



Even though I
had searched
for a star so
desperately
as a child.

Pat

EH

NONAKA,
YOU
IDIOT.

YOU HAVE TO
GET YOUR
FILL OF
HAPPINESS.



On that day I was at last able to cut the hair I had been unable to cut for so long.



And
that
time
too
Katou
was
there
by my
side.



And
shortly
there-
after I
learned
that
Yukari
had a
lover.







DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.

I am the
same as
that man.

without
thinking
about
Katou's
feelings or
anything
else.

I took
advantage
of Katou's
kindness

Even more
than Yukari,
what I had
done to
Katou took
hold of my
heart.

I thought
that I
had done
something
horrible.



If I continued like that, I thought I would end up depending completely on Katou.

And so

A good girl in the truest sense of the word.

Katou is a really good girl.

And then I was worried.

I was relieved.

Katou's behaviour didn't change at all the next day.



I started seeing various people.

I came
to be filled
with guilt.

And yet
even with
those
thoughts

I became
more and
more unable
to let go
of her.



I thought
Katou was
so beautiful.

And so I
thought I
should not
sully her.

It's fine
if she comes
to hate me.
That's what I
thought.

But even so,
Katou didn't
abandon me.

On the
contrary,
she treated
me well.

For me, is making Katou happy even possible...?



YUKARI.

AH,



WHAT'S
THIS?
SUMIRE?



Those
were my
honest
feelings.

CONGRATULATIONS
YUKARI!

It's a
mystery.
With Yukari's
smile, my
heart
became
warm.



THERE'S
NO POINT
IN PLAYING
DUMB,
ALRIGHT?

SUMIRE,
YOU'RE IN
LOVE WITH
SOMEONE,
AREN'T YOU?



Jeez~★
I just told
you that it's
still a ways
off!



BUT HEY,
YOU'VE GOT
SOMETHING
GOING ON
TOO RIGHT?

What is
the clothe
strength...

OW...



What's
this
about?

Shin

HLH?



IS
SCHOOL
FUN?

YEAH.

I SEE.

Like this

SEE, YOU
USED TO
HAVE THESE
EYES LIKE A
DEAD FISH.

BUT LATELY
YOU'VE HAD A
REALLY NICE
EXPRESSION...

!!



JOLT !!

B-sh

Heh

YEAH.

My being
the person
I am today
is thanks
to all the
people
who have
supported
me.

THEN I GUESS
YOU'RE GONNA
BE ALRIGHT...
JUST ONE
THING, THOUGH,
SUMIRE.

HAPPINESS
IS NOT
SOMETHING
YOU CAN
ACHIEVE ON
YOUR OWN.
...DO YOU
GET WHAT I
MEAN?

A way for me to be happy.





If Katou smiles for me that will be enough.





THERE'S A
CONSTELLATION.



Oh,
That's
right.

The one
who taught
me to wish
upon a star



was that
man...



HEHEH

But even
so,

I will
definitely
become
happy.

I don't think
that I will
ever be
able to
forgive my
step-father.



!!

NAH... IT'S
JUST, DON'T
THESE CLAW
MARKS MAKE
PERFECT
SHOOTING
STARS?

WHAT
IS IT?

I'VE GOT
A BAD
FEELING...



SO A
SELFISH
WISH?

YOU'RE
WRONG.

OBVIOUSLY
MY OWN
HAPPINESS,
RIGHT?

IMMEDIATELY

BUT WHAT
WOULD
YOU WISH
FOR,
KATOU?

On the
shooting
star

NOW,
NOW.

ARE
YOU AN
IDIOT!?

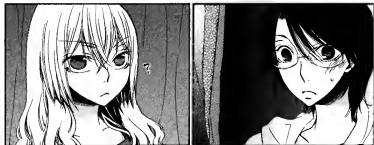


IT ALSO
NEEDS TO
INCLUDE ALL
THE PEOPLE
THAT ARE
IMPORTANT
TO ME.

Though this is
also my own
selfishness

BECAUSE THE
HAPPINESS
THAT I'M
TALKING
ABOUT IS
MEANINGLESS
IF IT'S ONLY
FOR ME.

Katou is the star that can grant my wish.



And surely I can also become such a star.



Surely anybody can do the same.

And like that, forever and always,

WELL THEN,
SHALL WE
LOOK FOR A
SHOOTING
STAR?

Beneath this vast sky

we will continue to sparkle so that we might find happiness.

Fin.



Divulge Scans

Girlish Sweet: 3/3 Memories
Takemiya Jin

Raws: WeatheredPeach (Yuri Project)
TL: Cyfer
Editing: Shadow

Yuri Project –
<http://yuriproject.net>

Divulge Scans – <http://divulge-scans.tumblr.com>

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